

JESUITS AND CECIL RHODES

**H heads of Institution in This
Country Resent Refer-
ence in Will.**

THAT STEAD INTERVIEW

Chicago, April 13.—Cecil Rhodes has aroused the Jesuits. His reference to the order in a "political will and testament" soon to be published, and the proposition advanced by him to found a powerful secret organization patterned after it, has stirred Roman Catholic church circles throughout the country. The local clergy resent the statement of Rhodes representing their society as a strong secret working body. At St. Ignatius college, West Twelfth and May streets, the project of the late South African magnate was made the subject of discussion at a conference of the Jesuit instructors at that institution. It was decided by the Jesuits that in the interest of justice and fair play to their order they would issue a public statement describing their society, its organization, objects and different institutions.

Voicing the sentiments of the Jesuit clergy of this city in taking issue with Rhodes' statement and discussing his scheme the Rev. Francis J. Cassidy, vice-president of the St. Ignatius Jesuit college, made the following statement:

"The Jesuit order is by no means a

secret organization. It is not a secret society any more than the congress of the United States or the Grand Army of the Republic or the Salvation army. A secret society is one whose aim is secret, or which works in the dark by underhand methods or whose records are closed to inspection against the constituted authorities of church or state. But the Jesuit order cannot be construed as secret in any of these ways. Its aim is known to all well informed readers, and it is contained in the motto of the order, "Ad maiorem Dei gloriam," all for the greater glory of God.

"Its object as laid down in the opening of its constitution is the salvation and sanctification of its own members and the salvation and sanctification of others. It endeavors to accomplish this object by the open and approved methods, such as the teaching of the Christian doctrine to the ignorant and to the children, the instruction of youth in colleges, preaching and the works of the ministry and missionary labors in heathen lands. Is there anything secret about all this?

"It is impossible that the written constitution could be a cloak to hide the ulterior designs of superiors in the highest circles of the order. The Jesuit order does no work in the dark. It has houses in all parts of the world. The civil authorities of every country can inspect these houses and colleges at any time; their history, constitution, laws, records, and documents can be found in libraries, and time and again the society has been approved by popes and civil governments. Never in over 300 years have the enemies of the Jesuits been able to find any proof that the organization is secret. Any one who dares to seek for information on this point can have all his doubts removed by calling at our local Jesuit college or elsewhere, where he will be received and given every opportunity to see the workings of the order.

"It is not feasible to pattern a worldly and political organization after the order of the Jesuits, for our order is founded on the cardinal principles of poverty, chastity and obedience. It seems improbable that you could get the mem-

bers of a millionaire association to strip themselves of their property, to live an unmarried and chaste life, and to vow obedience to the legitimate head in all virtuous commands. Such a life requires a spirit of sacrifice based on the highest religious motives. It is not compatible with worldly principles of action. Mr. Rhodes was a good miner, and a successful politician as the world goes, but no doubt he was too busy to concern himself about the truth in regard to the Jesuits. He was satisfied to pick up some vague ideas about them from sensational fiction or unreliable travesties of history. If he had been a scholar he would have known better.

"The Jesuits are opposed to his plan of forming a secret society to absorb the wealth of the world and which is to be used in preserving peace. All secret societies are a menace to law and order. They have no place under a free government. And an oligarchy of wealth, working in secret, such as he proposes, would be a tyranny such as the world has never known. The conception of such a nefarious scheme could come only from the brains of a man who was capable of destroying the liberties of free people to further his own personal ambitions."